rural areas. However, we have gone so far, and I suppose that so long as the Regulation is on the Statute Book, it must be given effect to. I hope the rules will be promulgated before long.

You touched on irrigation. I have already commented on this question in reply to one or two representatives.

In the matter of educational policy the one point I wish to touch upon is your reference to the office of the Director of Public Instruction, that it should be thrown open to officers of other executive departments of the State. As you are no doubt aware, in some parts of British India, the practice used to be, of having as Director of Public Instruction a civil service officer. For some years, however, they are having educational officers as Directors of Public Instruction. The reason for this is almost self-explanatory. Education is a highly specialised problem now and its needs are almost a life-study, particularly in the case of primary and secondary education. The civilised world generally has begun to realise the need, the very great need, for attention being devoted to important problems of child psychology, methods of imparting knowledge, mind and character development, school health and hygiene, and so on, all of which means that education is becoming a highly specialised and technical subject. In the circumstances, I doubt whether it will be wise or altogether sound that, say the Commissioner of Police or the Railway Engineer, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the Director of Registration or a District Magistrate should be the Director of Public Instruction.

You referred to the clerks in the Excise and Registration Departments and you spoke of the system of promotion and appointment which you would like to see being dealt with as in the Chief Secretariat. There is this difference. In the Registration and the Excise Departments, there are a certain number of executive appointments which are partly recruited from the ranks of clerks. If these executive appointments have to be filled up immediately, they must have a body of men ready at a call at short notice. Whether such a system of appointments and reversions as you suggest can be evolved is a matter which I shall take up in conjunction with the heads of those departments.

In the matter of the reconstitution of the Assembly I should like to give a collective reply after hearing all the members who have to speak on this subject.

183. How the Government can share the burden of administration with the people.

MR. JOSEPH MALIAKAL (*Member, Nominated*) said that Government could adjust their resources to the growing demands of the people in more than one way. In the first place they could devolve some of their administrative functions to self-governing bodies. In Travancore, there were already the municipal councils and the village panchayats, the latter not yet in actual existence. These local bodies fulfilled or were designed to fulfil certain administrative functions for

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which they collected money from the people. In regard to this phase of local administration, it should be carefully seen by Government that the local bodies raised only as much money as was necessary for current expenditure and for the essential reserves. In other words these local bodies should be allowed to collect money only under the supervision of Government. Funds for works of a capital nature should be given to them by Government.

Secondly, Government should curtail the expenditure from the public funds which was devoted to education. Government should as far as possible hand over the management of the existing schools to local bodies or individuals. They should not also start any new schools of their own except when absolutely necessary.

Another matter in which Government should devolve responsibility to the people was the construction of roads. In this matter, Government had already drawn up a scheme for establishing bodies called Road Boards. In this connection the member made reference to three canals which he urged Government should take up early. These were the Vempally canal, the Kaimpukat canal and the Idumoozhithara canal.

The Co-operative Department was another department which permitted of the delegation of some of the functions of Government to the people. So far as the department was concerned, the co-operative societies should be given a free hand in matters pertaining to their administration. The Registrar should not treat the officers of the societies as his subordinates. The member made special mention of the maladministration of society No. 1319 and asked for an investigation of its affairs by the Registrar.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Joseph Maliakal, you are discussing the question if the Government can share their financial burdens with the people of the country. They are already doing so. The Government derive their revenues from the people for expenditure on the people for their well-being and to meet the administrative demands of the State.

Then you proposed a measure of increased local self-government. You said that people of particular localities should be allowed to tax themselves to meet local expenditure under Government supervision. I am afraid this last qualification robs it of its practicability. If Government keep a watch on the moneys that are being collected and see how they are spent, they are not really relieved of a burden but continue to shoulder it.

Then you go on to say that schools as far as possible should be made over to private agencies and that Government should not conduct and set up any more schools except in localities where private agencies cannot possibly be found. I might tell you that so far as elementary, primary and middle school education is concerned, the policy of Government is to encourage private effort as much as possible—and the Government refrain from establishing their own schools unless where absolutely necessary, as for instance, in a backward area or for the interests of special communities.

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Then you touched upon roads and canals. All these you yourselves say will go to the boards to be newly constituted for dealing with roads and canals. Then as regards the *todu* you mentioned, the matter is under correspondence with the Chief Engineer.

In regard to co-operation, I shall place your suggestions on record so that they may come under consideration when the question of any changes in the Co-operative Department is considered. In regard to the particular society you mentioned I shall ask the Registrar to look into the matter.

184. Reform of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

MR. M. N. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Member, Kartikapally taluk*) said that the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly should be given a statutory basis. At present it depended for its existence on a mere executive order of the Government.

In regard to the election of members of the Assembly every person who paid a tax of Rs. 25 should be declared eligible to vote at the elections. The franchise should besides be extended to women.

The procedure for the holding of elections should be remodelled. Provision should be made for the presentation of nomination papers by intending candidates, polling of votes *etc.* Voting should be by ballot. Detailed rules should be made for the opening of ballot boxes and counting of votes.

The term of life of each Assembly should be fixed at three years.

The Assembly should be allowed to debate and vote upon all representations of general importance.

Copies of the Government Gazette should be supplied free to members of the Assembly, as was being done formerly.

Members of the Assembly should be given the power of attesting powers of attorney and of administering oaths on affidavits.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Govinda Pillai, I will give a collective answer to all representations on the subject of the reconstitution of the Assembly.

185. Reform of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

MR. NARAYANA PILLAI KRISHNA PILLAI (*Member, Kunnatnad taluk, Group I*) said that the Assembly should be given a statutory basis. The Legislative Council should be made responsible to the Assembly for its actions. The Assembly should be given the right of (*a*) debating and voting upon the principles underlying bills of general importance presented in the Legislative Council, the decision of the Assembly on any such bill being binding on the Council; (*b*) passing resolutions on political and financial questions, such resolutions when confirmed by the Legislative Council being binding on Government; (*c*) asking questions; and (*d*) holding general discussions on the annual Budget estimates.

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